

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096738

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CGEN, GE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WITH GDR DCM

1. EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE CALLED IN GDR DCM
APRIL 27 TO RAISE SEVERAL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS AND TO
URGE FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THESE BY THE GDR. VINE
ALSO USED THE OCCASION TO EXPRESS THE DEPARTMENT'S
SATISFACTION OVER THE GDR DECISION TO RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN
CASES WHICH USG HAS SUPPORTED.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING, VINE TOLD ELM THAT
THE GDR DECISION ON RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN CASES WAS A
SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AND WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IN
IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS. AFTER THIS, VINE EXPRESSED
THE DEPARTMENT'S SATISFACTION OVER THE GDR'S AGREEMENT
THAT THE FILM RETROSPECTIVE COULD NOW TAKE PLACE THIS
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YEAR. THIS, VINE NOTED, WAS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT IN
OUR EFFORTS TO EXPAND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

3. JOAN HOLMES: VINE THEN TURNED TO THE CASE OF
MS. JOAN HOLMES AND TOLD ELM THAT THE US FOUND IT
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY MS. HOLMES WAS NOT BEING
ALLOWED TO SPEND AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS IN THE GDR

TO COMPLETE HER ANTHOLOGY. VINE POINTED OUT THAT MS. HOLMES' WORK WOULD BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO APPEAR IN ENGLISH IN THE US. THEREFORE THE GDR STOOD TO BENEFIT FROM THE INTEREST IT WOULD AROUSE ON THE GDR CULTURAL SCENE. ELM, RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE IREX NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH DEPUTY MINISTER HEIDORN WAS PRESENTLY ENGAGED.

4. FEININGER PAINTINGS: IN A CAREFULLY OUTLINED PRESENTATION, VINE REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSITION OF THE FEININGER PAINTINGS AND REQUESTED ELM TO INFORM THE MFA OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN SEEING TO IT THAT THE PAINTINGS WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE US HEIRS. VINE STRESSED THAT A GDR COURT HAD RULED THAT THE PAINTINGS WERE THE PROPERTY OF THE FEININGER ESTATE AND WERE NOT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERED OPINION SUBJECT FOR INCLUSION IN CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS. VINE ALSO NOTED THAT EMBASSY BERLIN WAS STILL AWAITING A REPLY TO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE SUBMITTED TO THE MFA ON THIS SUBJECT AND REQUESTED THAT WE BE PROVIDED WITH A RESPONSE. ELM PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS SITUATION, ALTHOUGH HE DISCLAIMED ANY SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE.

5. VISIT OF DEPUTY MINISTER HEIDORN: ELM SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON RENEWAL OF THE IREX PROGRAM APPEARED TO BE GOING WELL AND NOTED THAT HEIDORN WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUFFY.
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VINE SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN MEETING HEIDORN AND IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED ON MAY 4.
VANCE

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